

February 2022



CONSULAR NEWS LETTER

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Hello,

My name is Cedra Eaton, the American Citizen Services Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

First, I'd like to thank all of our applicants and clients for their patience. We are continually navigating COVID-19 and other unpredictable situations in Haiti, and sometimes need to reschedule appointments when our own staff are unable to make it into the office.

This unpredictability is something I would like to remind you all to heed as you or your networks consider traveling to Haiti. The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince encourages U.S. citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Haiti at this time. The U.S. government's [travel advisory for Haiti](#) remains at its highest level, "Level 4: Do Not Travel" due to crime, civil unrest, kidnapping, and COVID-19. If you must travel, please sign up for [STEP](#), our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program.

If you have an appointment at the Embassy for a passport renewal, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or another American Citizen service, please ensure that you are completely prepared so we can serve you as quickly as possible and avoid requiring a follow-up appointment. Our website has a checklist of everything you need to bring to these appointments. Click on the following links for [passports](#), [Consular Reports of Birth Abroad](#), and [notarial services](#).

Lastly, if you are a U.S. citizen living abroad and are looking to vote in the upcoming U.S. midterm elections, please read through this month's *Ask the Consul* section for everything you need to know to vote.

Cedra Eaton
Chief, American Citizen Services

Ask the Consul

As campaigns for U.S. midterm elections are starting, we're answering all your questions about overseas voting for U.S. citizens.

Q: How do I request my ballot from overseas?

A: Registering to vote and submitting a ballot is fast, easy, and can be done from anywhere in the world! Most states provide the option to request ballots through their state election portals, which you can easily access via [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov). From [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov), connect to your state's voter portal to register to vote and request a ballot.

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Q: Can I request an absentee ballot?

A: Yes, you can request an absentee ballot for all federal office elections: President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives (including primaries and special elections). To request an absentee ballot, complete a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). FPCA forms that are correctly filled out and include a signature and date are accepted by all local election officials in every U.S. state and territory. FVAP's easy [online assistant](#) can help you complete the FPCA.

Q: Should I have my ballot mailed to me in Haiti?

A: We encourage you to select the option for receiving your ballot electronically (by email, internet download, or fax) when available. This is the fastest way for you to get your ballot and ensures you have it in time to return before your state's deadline.

Q: Can I drop off my ballot at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince?

A: If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials by mail, you can do so through international mail, professional courier service, or through U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's diplomatic pouch. Ballots can be dropped off by placing them in the designated box outside the Consular Entrance, Monday-Friday, 7am to 3:30pm.

Useful Links

- [FVAP.gov - start here](https://www.fvap.gov)
- [FVAP Online Assistant](#)
- [Voting Resources](#)

Please note all visitors to the Embassy are subject to security screening and you will not be permitted to bring electronic devices, including cell phones, inside. Please note that it can take up to three weeks for mail to reach its destination if sent by diplomatic pouch.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcom X, and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture, and more.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. For years it was a weeklong commemoration. Then, in 1976, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the United States, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

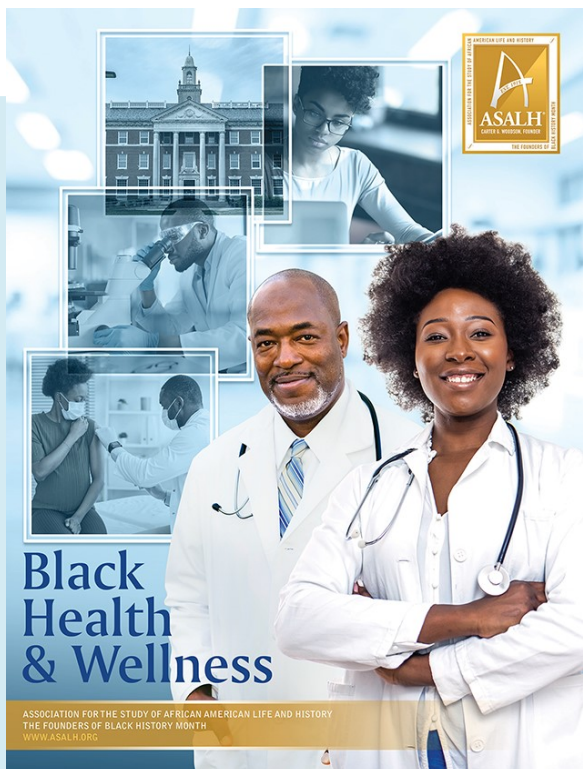
The United States and Haiti

The independence of Haiti as the world’s first Black nation has had a powerful influence on the history of the United States and far beyond. News of Haiti’s successful revolution led by slaves [reverberated across the Caribbean](#) to the United States, emboldening African American slaves. In antebellum America and during the Civil War, black and white abolitionists saw Haiti as an example of the potential and possibilities of black political leadership. On the eve of the Civil War, Frederick

Douglass spoke for most African Americans when he referred to the “bright example” of Haiti. He called Toussaint Louverture “the noble liberator and law-giver of his brave and dauntless people.” Douglass and others considered Toussaint one of the greatest men of the 19th century. Today, Haitian culture—from food, music, and its proud revolutionary tradition—is part of contemporary African American culture.

2022 Theme

The Black History Month 2022 theme *Black Health and Wellness* [explores](#) “the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals, and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well.



Health Resources & COVID-19

COVID-19

For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, please visit the [Embassy website](#). You'll find information about:

- **Where to get vaccinated**
- **Where to get tested**
- **Entry/exit requirements**
- **Quarantine guidelines**

Haiti—Level 4: Very High Level of COVID-19

The CDC has issued a Level 4 health advisory for Haiti. Avoid travel to Haiti. If you must travel to Haiti, make sure you are fully vaccinated.

General Health Guidance

- Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies.
- Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the Embassy website for a list of hospitals and medical professionals in Haiti.
- Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company or an air ambulance service. Visit the Embassy website for a list of Air Ambulance Services.

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Protect
From
COVID-19.



Useful Links

- [Embassy COVID-19 Page](#)
- [Travel Requirements](#)
- [Air Ambulance Services](#)
- [Hospitals in Haiti](#)

Haiti—Level 4: Do Not Travel

The U.S. Department of State has renewed the highest level “[Level 4: Do Not Travel](#)” travel advisory for Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and COVID-19.

If you are in Haiti:

- Sign-up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Haiti, and help the Embassy contact you in case of emergency. Enroll here: step.state.gov
- Remember that demonstrations, tire burning, and roadblocks are frequent, unpredictable, and can turn violent at any time. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.
- Always carry your cellphone and ensure it is charged before you travel. Ensure you have important numbers programmed into your phone. Consider using code names for family or friends.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.
- Arrange airport transfers and hotels in advance, or have your host meet you upon arrival.
- Travel by vehicle to minimize walking in public, and travel in groups of at least two people whenever possible.
- Always keep vehicle doors and windows locked with valuables out of sight.
- Exercise caution and alertness, especially when driving through markets and other traffic-congested areas.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Do not physically resist any robbery or kidnapping attempt.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter; avoid travel after dark in Port-au-Prince.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member or friend, of where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Minimize broadly publishing your travel plans on social media.

**STEP**

Smart Traveler
Enrollment Program

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Contact Info

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Email

- American Citizen Services: acspap@state.gov
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Phone

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Websites

- [American Citizen Services Website](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's Website](#)

Address

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince
Boulevard 15 Octobre
Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Useful Links

- [U.S. Embassy Facebook](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Twitter](#)
- [Haiti Travel Advisory](#)
- [American Citizen Services Facebook](#)
- [American Citizen Services Twitter](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)
- [Make an ACS Appointment](#)
- [COVID-19 Information in Haiti](#)

This newsletter is published by the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Please pass this newsletter along to other interested people. If you would like to receive your own copy directly, sign up through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). Comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are welcomed at acspap@state.gov.